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Office of the White House Press Secretary

COMMUNIQUE

Visit in the USSR of
U. S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger

In accordance with the previously reached understanding, Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State of the United States and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, visited Moscow from 24 to 28 March. He had discussions with Leonid I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and Andrei A. Gromyko, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

Taking part in the discussions on the Soviet side were: The Ambassador of the USSR in the United States A. F. Dobrynin, Assistant to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union A. M. Alexandrov, members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR G. M. Korniyenko and M. D. Sytenko. On the American side: the Ambassador of the United States to the USSR Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., officials of the Department of State Helmut Sonnenfeldt, Arthur A. Hartman, Alfred L. Atherton, Carlyle E. Maw, William G. Hyland, and Jan M. Lodal of the Staff of the National Security Council.

An exchange of views was held on a broad range of questions of mutual interest in connection with the preparation for the visit to the Soviet Union of the President of the United States, Richard Nixon.

The sides noted with satisfaction that the course taken by the two countries toward a relaxation of tension and a major improvement of relations between them continues to be implemented successfully and brings tangible results. The exceptional importance of the fundamental decisions adopted at the two previous Soviet-American summit meetings, first of all the basic principles of relations between the USSR and the United States, the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war, and the agreements on the limitation of strategic arms, has been convincingly demonstrated.

The sides are determined to pursue, on the basis of strict observance of the obligations they have assumed, the established policy aimed at making the process of improving Soviet-American relations irreversible.

In the course of the discussions, considerable attention was given to the problem of the further limitation of strategic arms. The sides agree that, despite the complexity of this problem, there are possibilities for reaching mutually acceptable solutions. They are determined to continue to make energetic efforts to find such solutions. Certain other questions relative to the area of arms limitation and disarmament were also considered.

Noting the favorable development of bilateral relations in a number of directions determined by the agreements signed by the USSR and the United States, the two sides intend to develop further mutually beneficial ties and businesslike cooperation in different areas, including trade, economic and scientific and technological areas on a long-term basis.

In discussing international problems, particular attention was paid to the state of affairs regarding a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. It was agreed that, taking into account their special role at the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East, the sides would make efforts to promote the solution of the key questions of the Middle East settlement.

The questions pertaining to security and cooperation in Europe were also examined, first of all the progress of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe and the state of the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe.

The exchange of views was held in a constructive and businesslike atmosphere. The sides are convinced that it has been an important stage in the preparation for the successful holding of the forthcoming Soviet-American summit meeting and for Soviet-American relations in general.

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